



# Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

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## **Hail Storm contributes to a series of Collisions One Person Killed**

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers investigated a series of collisions that occurred this morning on State Route 90 in the area of milepost 296 as a hail storm passed through the area. The DPS Communications Center received numerous 9-1-1 calls of several collisions that occurred within a 2-5 minute time period. The collisions occurred on an icy road which resulted in four separate incidents.

One of the collisions unfortunately involved a fatality. A southbound 99 Chevrolet pickup driven by Jennifer Van Kirk, 59 of Tucson, lost control of the vehicle for an unknown reason, slid off the road broadside and slammed into a concrete culvert. As a result of the collision, the driver was partially ejected from the vehicle and sustained injury. She was taken to an area hospital where she later died from her injuries.

The safety restraints installed in the vehicle were not in use by the driver. Officers believe that the fatality may have been prevented had the driver been wearing safety restraints.

DPS encourages everyone to slow down while traveling on wet and icy roadways and to always remember to wear your safety restraints.

# END #

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 30 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.*

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